

The Elgin National Road Race

Jeff Michel

St. Thomas More,

Teacher: Melissa Craig

Crown Point, Indiana, became the focal point for the first road race in the Midwest. On June 18, 1909, 50,000 people attended a 232-mile road course race. This first race in the Midwest was promoted by the Chicago Auto Club. The Crown Point race promoters had hoped to sell tickets to the race fans. Most fans sat on the lawn or in their own lawn chairs along the race course. Financial trouble and road conditions forced the race to move to a different location.

Elgin resident, Frank Wood, an auto dealer, convinced the Chicago Motor Club that a local course had many advantages over Crown Point, Indiana. One advantage for having a race course in Elgin, Illinois, would be having no crossroads or railroads. There also were no bad hills, and no towns to pass through.

The Chicago Motor Club was invited to Elgin to view the roads proposed by Frank Wood. A committee of local men formed the Elgin Automobile Club with capital of \$20,000. A group of five men signed the incorporation papers for the Elgin Automobile Road Race Association on May 13, 1910. Stock in the corporation was issued and sold to help pay for the costs.

The Elgin Automobile Road Race Association made a deal with the local farmers that lived near the race course. If the farmer allowed his land to be used for the races, the farmer could sell tickets, concessions, and the lodging. Any money made was split in half with one half going to the race association and the farmer keeping the other half. Late in August 1910, the Elgin Automobile Road Race Association prepared to run the first in a series of races on Elgin's west side. They signed for two days of racing.

Elgin hosted the race from 1910-1915 and again in 1919 and 1920. It was reborn for one year, in 1933. The races were held in Elgin every August and drew huge crowds. Stores and factories closed during the races while local hotel rooms were reserved weeks in advance. The Kelley Hotel had a national reputation. During the Elgin Road Races, many outstanding people of the automobile industry stayed at this hotel.

Prior to race days, Elgin residents were in a state of high anticipation at the thought of seeing the world's best drivers take the grueling course. The wide-open roads were an attraction for drivers from around the country. The Elgin National Road Races were known for their tests of the skills of the drivers and the endurance of their cars. Three races for the Illinois, Kane County, and Fox River trophies were run right after each other on courses of different lengths.

The original drivers of the Elgin National Road Race traveled on an 8.5 mile track. The race course was an oiled, gravel track. The gravel roads were spread with an estimated 50,000 gallons of oil to keep the dust down. Elgin locals were invited to drive on the track to grind the oil and gravel together to make the track more solid.

Mechanics rode with the drivers because when the car broke down; the team had to know how to get back on the road. The mechanics were also responsible for pumping oil into the engine. Spare tires and tools were common accessories for motorists then. "The question in the minds of all was how many of the mechanics would outlast the terrible grind and how many of the demon drivers would come out without injury," the *Elgin Courier News*, the local newspaper, reported.

Flaggers were necessary to help people off the track. The flaggers also guided them around the accident.

The judges in the stands kept an accurate time (electrically) on every car for every lap. A pair of people was responsible for each car and each car was timed separately. The judges posted the times on a chalkboard.

Postcards were sent all over the country advertising the races. Winning races allowed car manufacturers to make promotional postcards. The car was always featured with the driver highlighted. Most postcards were real photos; however, humorous postcards were the popular souvenirs of the day. Many of the drawings showed the local people of Elgin as farmers. The farmers sat on fences watching the road race. Promotional brochures contained printed routes to the race site.

The Elgin economy grew largely because the drivers and their race teams bought equipment for their cars from local stores. Most racers came because of the Elgin National Cup. The trophy was said to have been designed by Tiffany's of New York and valued at \$4,500. The solid silver trophy is 44 inches high and weighs 40 pounds. Today, it is valued at \$100,000. The trophy was custom made and donated by the Elgin National Watch company. In addition to the trophy, the winner got \$1,000. Second place received \$300 and third place received \$200.

The Elgin Road Races were first held in 1910. Judges, stands, and bleachers were erected and history was made when at least 125,000 spectators attended the two-day event beginning on August 26, 1910. Drivers were sent off separately from the starting line at 15-second intervals. When all of the entrants of the first race were sent off, those of the second race would be sent off the same way and the same in the third section. They had three races going on the same track at the same time for as long as it took to complete the race.

Maurice Dyer, president of the Model T Club of Elgin, related that the Road Race plaque was erected in 1970 by the Elgin Area Historical Society and the Chicago Motor Club in commemoration of the race. Ralph Mulford returned to Elgin for the commemoration in 1970. Today, a plaque is mounted near the entrance of the old Fire Station 4 on Larkin Avenue in Elgin, Illinois. It marks a point on the course on which the drivers contributed significantly to the engineering of the modern automobile. It also provided the development for the design of modern cars. The road race is remembered every year with a car show sponsored by the Fox Valley Chapter of the Model T Ford Club.

The Elgin National Road Race boosted the Elgin economy. Drivers, spectators, and workers were quite proud of the efforts that everyone participated in such grand events. Ralph DePalma was the most frequent participant in the Elgin Road Races. He won three times in the main event, more than any other driver.

The famous Barney Oldfield had a reputation as the fastest driver, driving Henry Ford's speedster to 60 m.p.h. in the 1910 race. This straight line speed did not prepare him for the road race, and he never won in Elgin. Spencer Wishart was a popular 22-year-old millionaire who loved to race. He participated in the Elgin races until his death in the 1914 race. Throughout its history, the race claimed five lives, three in 1911 and two in 1914.

Fast cars, the lack of crowd protection, public complaints concerning road closings, and the opening of oval tracks specifically designed for racing led to the downfall of the Elgin races. Also, the races did not continue because of tight turns, drivers did not want to return, cars traveled too fast for road conditions, and the overall safety of everyone was in question. Throughout the racing years, it helped Elgin and car technology increase its importance. It made Elgin the racing capital of the world in the early part of the twentieth century. [From E. C. Alft, *Elgin*; William E. Bennett, *Elgin, Illinois "Wish You Were Here;"* J. C. Burton, "Stutz Sweeps Card at Elgin," *Motor Age Magazine* (1915); *The Courier News*, Aug. 4, 1991, Merrill, Mar. 14, 2001; *The Daily Herald* (Aug. 19, 2002); Jim and Wynette Edwards, *Elgin, Illinois*; Elizabeth Marston, (Oct. 24, 2002), *Elgin Road Race Scrapbook; The Story of the Elgin Road Races: The Elgin Road Races Sixtieth Anniversary Brochure.*]

The Bell that Caused the Bang

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As the leaves begin to fall off of the trees and cold gusts sneak into the air, there are other events that signify fall has come to America. Millions of children return to school, baseball crowns a new world champion, and a select group of young men will bleed, sweat, and cry.

The latter event, of course, describes the all-American tradition of high school football. Every Friday or Saturday night, beginning in late August, 60 young men will carry the hopes of their local community. No matter what is wrong in the world, for about two hours, the youth of America fight for pride. During that time, every disaster, tragedy and wrong committed is put aside.

At least that is how it is in southern Illinois. Hundreds pack each high school stadium with the words of Vince Lombard ringing in their minds, "Winning isn't the most important thing; it's the only thing." Unfortunately, this good-natured game can sometimes turn from a competition for pride into something much more sinister and violent, as it did on one fall day in 1969.

The Cubs and the Cardinals; the Bears and the Packers; and at the high school level there was the rivalry between the Belleville Township High School West Maroons and the East Saint Louis Flyers, especially in football. The annual Thanksgiving Day battle between the Maroons and the Flyers began in 1914. It was decided that there should be some kind of victory prize, to be given to the winning town as bragging rights until the next match.

For 54 years the Flyers and the Maroons met, alternating stadiums each year, to compete for a brass bell, donated by Southern Railways. The Victory Bell, as it would come to be known, went to whichever team won the game and during the game, it would sit on the outskirts of one of the end zones, as allusive as the Golden Fleece, the Holy Grail of southern Illinois football.

On November 28, 1969, the stage was set for the fiftieth annual meeting between the Maroons and the Flyers. The game was to be played at East Saint Louis' Parsons Field. Temperatures were at a record low, but that did not stop nearly 7,000 fans from packing Parsons Field on that Thanksgiving morning. Seven thousand fans may seem like a relatively large crowd for a high school football game but this was normally the size of the crowd that attended the annual Thanksgiving Day game.

Much was at stake. If the bell did not represent pride, honor, or dignity to either high school, then nothing did. Since this game was the last of the season, on several occasions the winner of this game was crowned football champion of the Southwestern Conference, to which both teams belonged. Belleville West had lost to the Flyers for the past five years, and with two minutes left in the game, the chances of bringing the bell back to Belleville in 1969 did not look very good -the score was 12-6 in favor of the Flyers.

As former Maroon football player John Bunch remembers, "The East Saint Louis center hiked the ball over the quarterback's head. We recovered (the ball) and drove toward the end zone. With about 12 seconds left, the Maroons scored and won the game 13-12."

Unlike previous years, the Victory Bell, instead of being located at one end zone, was located in front of a grandstand. As Maroon players and fans began to realize that the bell was going back to Belleville, a mass exodus began towards that grandstand.

"You have to understand, this was not, 'hey, we won,' this was, 'we have to get to the bell,' that's how much the bell meant to us," former Maroon football player Thomas Baltz said. Unfortunately for the Maroons, the grandstand was also located on the East Saint Louis side of the field. While Bellevillians rushed to grab the bell, some East Saint Louis fans tried just as hard to keep it.

Some Belleville West players, such as Baltz, decided that it was not worth risking injury to get the bell. After all, it would be exchanged formally at a later date. However, there were some players that

made their way to the bell. When East Saint Louis fans began tossing beer bottles, sticks, and even a trash can at the Maroons, Maroon fans decided to take action.

That is when the struggle began between Maroon and Flyer fans. While this article does not attempt to prove which side was wrong in its actions, the fact of the matter is that a fight did break out that day. While most of the violence was contained in several small fist-fights, East Saint Louis police were worried that more violence might erupt.

As Bunch recalls, "An East Saint Louis police officer was in the middle of the crowd. He was off duty and wearing a trench coat; so no one knew who he was. He fired two warning shots into the air, and the crowd quickly dispersed."

"We actually have the footage on our game tapes. Looking back now, it's quite eerie to see the shots being fired and to realize that we were a part of that," Baltz said.

In the end, no fans were hospitalized. However, two East Saint Louis youths were taken into custody, and Maroons' star Tom Stock suffered an injured hand in the fight. Amazingly enough Stock would go on to win the state championship in the shot put in the spring of 1970. Although a fight over a bell may seem simplistic; Bunch says that it was important in the culture of Illinois' sports. By the late 1960s, East Saint Louis was predominantly African American, while Belleville's population consisted of few African Americans.

"It was a sign of the times. This was the 1960s. There was plenty of racial tension, and it obviously carried into the game. The "Bell" was the sign of pride. It made one city feel better than the other. The guys in East Saint Louis thought the Belleville boys were rich, and winning it meant everything to them, just as it did to us."

However, the adventure was not complete. As the Maroons rushed to get on the team bus, several Flyers fans snuck off with the bell. It was not until a few weeks later, when the bell was found in an East Saint Louis garage, that it was returned to its rightful owners.

If anything, this incident showed what can occur when pride is on the line, especially when other tensions are present. The annual game between the Flyers and the Maroons is no longer played on Thanksgiving Day, having stopped in 1974, due to the beginning of the state football playoffs. Nowadays, whenever the two teams play, the bell is no longer brought to the game, but rather exchanged at a later date. Today, the game does not have the same meaning. It does not bring an entire town together, rallying around a group of young men for the pride of the city. When the Flyers and the Maroons meet today, there certainly are not 7,000 strong at the game -- only a few hundred. While the rivalry and the spirit of the game is now gone, the effects of the tradition will forever shape these two communities.

The next time you find yourself at a chilly high school football game, remember that more is at stake than a win-loss record -- as two teams from two sides of opposite sides of the spectrum demonstrated so many years ago. [From Belleville Township High School West Yearbook, *Bellevinois* 1970; student historian's interview with Thomas Baltz, Jan. 15, 2004; student historian's interview with John Bunch, Jan. 15, 2004; *Belleville News-Democrat*, Nov. 29, 1969.]

The Chicago Cubs: An Enduring Tradition

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The Windy City is home to many prominent landmarks. One of those landmarks is Wrigley Field. This baseball stadium is home to the well-known National League Baseball team, the Chicago Cubs. Even though the Cubs are not known for winning pennants or championships, they have changed Chicago in many ways.

The Chicago Cubs were organized in the early 1870s by William A. Hulbert. Their original name was the White Stockings, and later changed to the Cubs in 1902 after a newspaper used the Cubs as a nickname. Later on, Philip K. Wrigley bought the Cubs from Charles Weeghman. Weeghman Park, as it was known, changed to the Cubs Park and in 1926 it became Wrigley Field, a name that would last and is still the same today. Wrigley Field was built in 1914 and is the second oldest ballpark still active in the country.

The Cubs have affected Chicago and baseball. Many great players of different races have played for the team including Albert Spalding, Hack Wilson, Fergie Jenkins, Andre Dawson, Rick Sutcliffe, Ernie Banks, Sammy Sosa, Kerry Wood, Carlos Zambrano, Mark Prior, and many others. All of these people with different backgrounds have a unique relationship with Chicago. For example, when you go to a home game at Wrigley Field, you will always see at least one Dominican Republic flag for Sammy Sosa, Carlos Zambrano, and all the other players from there. Such a variety of cultures over the past one hundred years has attracted many to the games. After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, all the men, including baseball players, went to war. As a result of this, attendance in ballparks went down. This is what prompted Wrigley with an idea. He, along with the Cubs coach at the time, Ken Sells, suggested a women's baseball team and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was formed. Attendance in all the ballparks increased and one of the four main teams played in Illinois, the Rockford Peaches. The change in gender helped baseball owners get through what could have been a hard time.

The Cubs have influenced the children of this city with their reading program that they sponsor with Chicago Public School Children (just like the Chicago Bulls). The Cubs players and coaches read books with kids and show them how much fun reading is. Having the players reading to the children encourages them because most elementary students look up to athletes as their role models. This reading program has helped many and will in future years.

Whenever there is a story, the media is there to cover it. For sports, the media puts the games on television or covers the highlights in newspapers. WGN radio or 720 AM is home to the Chicago Cubs and covers every game including a pre- and post- show. Harry Carey was a spokesperson for WGN and attracted many listeners. Among other commentators are third base legend Ron Santo, Cubs pitcher Steve Stone, and Harry Carey's grandson Chip Carey. *The Chicago Tribune* owns the Cubs as well as WGN TV/Radio, which provide coverage of the games and all the news about the Cubs. In the regular baseball season Fox Channel 12 will show Cubs games on Saturdays. Many shows have arisen because of the Cubs. For example, Fox Sports Network has two or three shows just about the Cubs including pre- and post- shows. The Cubs have a website with articles written by sports journalist and analyzers. The Chicago Cubs have a great impact on the media and always will. But their influence does not end there, but carries into the neighborhood they play in.

One of the most well known neighborhoods on the North Side of Chicago is Wrigleyville. Wrigleyville was built upon the creation of Wrigley Field. In this neighborhood, almost everything is about the Cubs. There are bars, stores, restaurants, and other things. Bars are named after the team such as the Cubby Bear which has been in business for over twenty years. Surrounding building owners

have formed their rooftops into extra seating for fans eager to watch their beloved Cubs. Wrigleyville is a prominent neighborhood and is known for its relationship with Wrigley Field.

The Chicago Cubs have affected the city's economics as well. Every year, the Cubs bring in millions of dollars of revenue. Every game sells out tickets, and at each game there are vendors everywhere. There are parking lots all around Wrigley Field, which charge up to twenty dollars for a parking spot. Every year season tickets are always sold out and the Cubs make millions with stores including their store online.

As you can see, the Cubs have a big effect on Chicago. Even though they have not won the World Series since 1908, it does not matter. They still have the support of the fans and Chicago. Every year they manage to sell out. They could be in last place and the stadium would still be full. That is because there is hope. Like Chicago Cubs' star Sammy Sosa says, "Baseball's been very, very good to me." He could say the same about Cubs being good to Chicago because of their great relationship with the city. [From Art Ahrens and Eddie Gold, *1985-1990 The Renewal Era Cubs*; Warren Brown, *The Chicago Cubs*; Pete Cava, *Tales from the Cubs Dugout*; "Chicago Cubs History" <http://www.geocities.com/cubsfanz1/> (Dec. 30, 2003); Chicago Cubs Official Website, <http://www.cubs.com> (Jan. 7, 2004); Chicago Cubs "Wrigley Field History and Information", http://cubs.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/chc/ballpark/chc_ballpark_history.jsp (Jan. 7, 2004); Aaron Frisch, *The History of the Chicago Cubs*; Derek Gentile, *The Complete Chicago Cubs*; Barry Gifford, *The Neighborhood of Baseball*; William Hageman and Warren Wilbert, *Chicago Cubs*; Jerome Holtzman and George Vass, *The Chicago Cubs Encyclopedia*; Mark Jacob, *Wrigley Field*; Jim Langford, *The Game is Never Over – An Appreciative History of the Chicago Cubs, 1948-1980*; Bob Logan, *More Tales from the Cubs Dugout*; Doug Myers, *Essential Cubs*; Larry Names, *Bury My Heart at Wrigley Field*; Curt Smith, *Storied Stadiums – Baseball's History Through its Ballparks*; Arthur A. Ahrens, "How the Cubs Got Their Name," *Chicago History* (Spring 1976); Chicago Tribune Magazine, (Ap. 9, 2000).]

Sports in Illinois Prisons

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Some believe there is a fine line between pleasure and pain. In a similar way, some believe there is a fine line between pleasure and punishment. In Illinois there has long been the question of what is too much penalty and what is not enough. One of the leading arguments in this debate deals with recreation within prisons. Today virtually every prison, whether minimum or maximum security, has some form or forms of recreation for its prisoners; however along with this arrangement comes a heavily dominated, yet still two-sided argument. There are three basic pieces of information needed to form an opinion: what is included in recreation at a prison, what are the pros, and what are the cons?

Activities in prisons include anything from weight lifting to team play; each prison has a little bit of something for everyone. The Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center in East St. Louis, Illinois has two weight areas, a basketball court, and several other areas for recreation. This is the case with many Illinois prisons. As one drives by, he or she might see prisoners running, playing basketball, or even weightlifting within the towering barbed-wire fences. In the mid-security Pontiac Correctional Facility in Pontiac Illinois, the inmates had a baseball team which traveled to other prisons across the country to compete. Softball leagues, handball, volleyball, and basketball were among the many activities of Joliet, Illinois' maximum security institution. The Joliet institution used its recreational privileges as an incentive for the inmates to remain well-behaved.

Most people view recreation in prisons as a positive thing. Early Laster, Warden of Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center, is definitely one of these people. He states, "If they didn't have recreation times, their left-over energy would cause problems... It keeps them busy and their minds active". Although the facility is only minimum security, he believes that possible problems are greatly reduced due to the prisoners' opportunity during recreational times to vent their anger in more positive, productive ways; this helps the prisoner to live a successful life even after they are released. Dr. John D. Scouller, superintendent of the Pontiac Institution from 1872 until 1891, was the first in his prison to establish sports. "Early in his career, he realized the importance of recreation in the development of young men and inaugurated the inmate baseball teams." This may have contributed to why the people of the town were so fond of him. He maintained order extremely well among the inmates, and no complaints were ever made against him.

Not everyone agrees with the idea of recreation being beneficial or even allowable in prisons. Some people in the general public, who strongly believe in punishing a prisoner until they will never want to commit a crime again, see recreation as an easy break for the inmates. Society's attitudes are often interpreted as easy. "[I] can go to school, play pool, football, ect. Great!! Not jail at all!" Some ask why a prisoner should be allowed to have fun. Others see it as just another opportunity for a fight or an argument to be aroused over something as simple as a game. However, in contradiction to this, Laster believes, "those arguments and fights are going to happen no matter what. As long as there is a captive audience around, [fights] can be expected."

There are multiple recreational activities in many prisons across the state of Illinois. All types of facilities have them, whether minimum, mid, or maximum security; security does not seem to affect the variety of activities offered. Some use recreation to promote health among the prisoners, and aid them in obtaining successful, well-balanced lives when they are released back into the general population. Others use recreation as a reward for good conduct, ultimately benefiting the staff. It seems as though people who encounter prisoners or prison life on a regular basis generally favor the use of recreational facilities. Although not everyone agrees with this arrangement, recreation and sports remain a large key in the lock of the Illinois prison systems today. [From Henry Barrett Chamberlin, *The Prison System in Illinois*; Joseph E. Ragen, *Inside the World's Toughest Prison*; "Recreation and Educational Facilities

in Prison” Prison! Me! No-way! Trust Ltd. [www:fp.pmnwt.f9.co.uk/infp25](http://www.fp.pmnwt.f9.co.uk/infp25). (Sep. 26, 2003); student historian’s interview with Early Laster (Warden, Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center), Spet. 18, 2003; *Pontiac Sentinel*, Oct. 16, 1891; Rick Telander “Sports Behind the Walls,” *Sports Illustrated* Oct. 17, 1988.]

Red Grange, the Greatest Collegiate Football Player of All Time

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*A streak of fire, a breath of flame
Eluding all who reach and clutch;
A gray ghost thrown into the game
That rival hands may never touch;
A rubber bounding, blasting soul
Whose destination is the goal. -
Red Grange of Illinois!*

—Grantland Rice

Though this poem may seem odd and corny, the person it describes is nonetheless one of the greatest football players of all time. This is the description of Harold "Red" Grange, who is as important to football in America as Babe Ruth is to baseball and as Jack Dempsey is to boxing. Even *Sports Illustrated* recognized the importance of this athlete in a special issue celebrating "yesterday's heroes" and featured Red Grange "An Original Superstar" on the cover. Grange experienced an exceptional football career including high school and with the Chicago Bears. However, his most impressive work as a football athlete came from his years on the University of Illinois football team.

In the rustic isolated town of Forksville, Pennsylvania, on June 13, 1903, Harold Grange was born. Between chasing his dog and imitating older boys who played baseball or participated in track meets, Grange showed an interest in athletics from an early age. When he was five, his mother died and his remaining family moved from Forksville to Wheaton, Illinois. Just like any other child he performed chores and went to school, but his favorite part of the day was after school when he had time to play football, basketball, or baseball. He was very active and played sports year round. However, his athletic career almost ended before it began when he was eight years old. When Grange was examined for an ordinary cold, the doctor detected a heart murmur and told him not to be involved in any rigorous exercise. Not being aware of the risk, he continued to play with his friends. Yet, after a slight injury he had to admit to his father what he had been doing. Fortunately, his father allowed him to continue participating in athletic events, and it was confirmed before he entered high school that the heart murmur had been a misdiagnosis."

Grange entered Wheaton High School in the fall of 1918. A few days after enrolling, he tried out for the football team. Since he had little formal experience in the game, he did not really know what position to play. He inquired which position was open and took it: the right end. Wheaton only won two games in this season. Yet Red Grange's true potential was shown the one time he carried the ball that year and made a touchdown. Left halfback became the regular position for Grange during his sophomore, junior, and senior years. Grange also participated every year in track and was captain his sophomore, junior, and senior years as well. He competed in the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, broad jump, high jump, and low and high hurdles. He represented Wheaton at state competition for the 100, 220, and broad jump and he won all six events in the Little Seven Conference. Red Grange also played basketball and baseball, which he considered his favorite sports. By the end of his high school athletic career Red Grange had won sixteen letters in four sports.

Grange entered the University of Illinois in 1922. More than 300 players turned out for freshmen football tryouts and even though he thought he would not make the team, he did. Grange even scored two touchdowns in a scrimmage game against the varsity team. The 1922 freshmen team was one of the strongest Illinois ever had. It was on this team that Red Grange learned many of the fundamentals that he had missed in high school. In Grange's first game of his sophomore season against Nebraska in 1923, he scored all of Illinois' touchdowns, leading to a 24-7 victory. By the end of his sophomore

season Grange led the Big Ten scorers with 12 touchdowns and 72 points and was named All-American halfback.

The Illinois and Michigan game of October 18, 1924, was the boiling point of a heated rivalry. Grange and his number 77 jersey were lifted into legendary status by this game. The 5-foot 11, 175-pound junior was as elusive as a ghost to the Michigan defenders, which led to the poem of the galloping ghost. Grange was surprised that the opening kickoff was directed to him. However, he avoided several tackles and sprinted 95 yards for a touchdown. Grange continued to execute marvelous runs and score points for the Illini, including a 67-yard run. He followed up with two more outstanding touchdown dashes of 56 and 45 yards to give Illinois a lead of 27-0. All four of the touchdowns that Grange had scored covered a total of 262 yards and came within the first twelve minutes. Yet Grange still was not finished. In the second half he ran eleven more yards to score the fifth touchdown and passed twenty yards for the final touchdown. The final score was 39-14. Every touchdown in this game was, in large part, due to the actions of Red Grange.

In the final year of his college career Grange drew thousands of fans and for the third time was named All-American. Immediately after his final game with the University of Illinois, Grange began his professional career with the Chicago Bears. His jump to professional football brought credibility to the struggling professional leagues. The first games that Grange played were part of a tour, 19 games in 67 days. In every city that Grange played he drew enormous crowds and became increasingly popular. In the 1927 season he suffered a serious knee injury. As a result he stayed out of the 1928 season and was never the same offensive threat he had once been. Yet he came back in the 1929 season and played for six more years. In the National Football League's first championship game in 1933, Grange helped lead his team to victory with his defensive skills causing both coaches to proclaim him the best defensive player they had ever seen.

After his football career Grange continued to have an impact on the sport by being an analyst for the Bears and on network television college games. Red Grange is a member of both the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The grand total of his high school, college and professional football statistics is 162 touchdowns and 86 conversions for an overwhelming 1058 points. In 1969, to commemorate college football's hundredth anniversary the Football Writers' Association of America decided to choose an All-American player for the past 100 years. Red Grange was unanimously chosen. [From John M. Carroll, *Red Grange and the Rise of Modern Football*; *Champaign News-Gazette*, Oct. 21 and 26, 1924; Red Grange and Ira Morton, *The Red Grange Story*; Ralph Hickok, "Grange, 'Red' (Harold E.)." Sports Biographies 2002, www.hickoksports.com/biograph/grangered. (Sept. 1, 2003); "Red Grange," Chicago Bears 2001-2003, www.chicagobears.com/history/index.cfm?cont_id=70230>, (Sept. 1, 2003); Larry Schwartz, "Galloping Ghost Scared Opponents" www.espn.go.com/sportscentury/features/00014213, (Sept. 1, 2003); Larry Schwartz, "More Info on Red Grange" www.espn.go.com/classic/grangeredadd (Sept. 1, 2003); Gene Schoor and Henry Gilford, *Red Grange, Football's Greatest Halfback*.]

George Halas: Father of American Professional Football

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George Halas witnessed the birth of an American Dream and it entertained thousands of sports fans throughout the country. Before 1920, football was considered a secondary sport by most sports fans. It was overshadowed by the big three sports of that day, boxing, horseracing, and baseball. Professional football had potential but it needed a leader. On September 17, 1920, Halas led a small group of enthusiastic investors and become the father of modern day professional football.

Halas was quite an athlete himself. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1918, where he starred in football and baseball. He played for the New York Yankees in 1919 but, because of injury, he retired. He then moved back to Illinois. While working as a recreational director for the Staley starch works, he formed the Decatur Staleys, a semiprofessional football team. The Staleys won 1 and lost 1 game with Halas as a coach and player in 1920. On September 17 of that same year, Halas attended a monumental meeting in Canton, Ohio. There, sitting on running boards of cars in an automobile agency, the American Professional Football Association (APFA) was formed. Four teams joined the league that year: Canton Bulldogs, Akron Pros, Buffalo All-Americans, and the Decatur Staleys. The Decatur Staleys moved to Chicago in 1921 and became the Chicago Bears when Staley did not renew the franchise. Some say they were named the Bears because that was an appropriate name since they played in the same sports facility as the Chicago Cubs baseball team. Halas and his partner Edward Dutch Sternaman took over operation of the ball club. At the annual league meeting of 1922, other owners agreed to Halas' proposal that the APFA should also be given a new name, the National Football League.

By signing all-American running back Red Grange from Illinois, Halas helped save professional football from extinction. Grange was known as the "Galloping Ghost" and the "Wheaton Iceman". Once Grange turned professional and went on the road with the Chicago Bears he played before packed stadiums wherever he went. In New York in December, 1925, he drew a record 72,000 people to a pro game. Grange then went on a barnstorming tour with 8 games in 12 days. Grange became a national celebrity, endorsing dolls, sweaters, caps, ginger ale, candy bars and even meat loaf. He was, according to announcer Grantland Rice, "three or four men and a horse rolled into one for football purposes." With the help of Red Grange's popularity, the threat of professional football leaving was gone forever.

Halas created much of what is in the NFL today. Halas's commitment to the T-formation also helped lead the popularity of today's wide-open football offenses by adding a man-in-motion. The bears used this offense to win championships in 1940 and 1942. The 1940 championship was played against the Washington Redskins. To this day, it is still the biggest victory in league history, 73-0. Halas played and coached the Bears off and on from 1929 until 1968. In forty years, Halas won seven league championships and he was voted coach of the year in 1963 and 1965. He held the record for wins until 1993. In 1963, he was elected as a charter member of the professional football hall of fame in Canton, Ohio. Halas's success as a coach was not directly connected to his strategy but his personality on and off the field. He expected nothing less than perfection from his players and his players gave him their best.

The NFL today owes much to George Halas. Halas was present at all the five early major milestones for the league. He was there at Canton, Ohio when the league was started. He was at the barnstorming tour of Red Grange that popularized the sport. He was influential in all the major rule changes with the T-formation. He helped get football televised. He was present at the NFL and AFL merger. With all of these in mind, there is no one else that could be considered the father of modern day pro football than George Halas. [From "George Halas," www.NFL.com (Jan. 26, 2004); "Red Grange," www.infoplease.com/ipsa/AO (Jan. 15, 2004); "Red Grange"

www.sportstrivia.net/redgrange.html109233.html (Nov. 23, 2003); “Red Grange,”
www.collegefootballnews.com/Top_100_Players/Top_100_Players_1_Red_Grange.htm (Oct. 31,
2003); “George Halas,” www.infoplease.com/ipsa/A0109252.html (Dec. 15, 2003); “George Halas,”
www.baseballlibrary.com/baseballlibrary/ballplayers/H/Halas_George.stm (Dec. 12, 2003); “George
Halas,” www.factmonster.com/cgi-bin/id/A0109252.html (Dec. 10, 2003).]

St. Bede Academy's Fifty Game Winning Streak

James Hanson

St. Bede Academ, Peru

Teacher: Michael Pomatto

In the years 1940-1942, St. Bede Academy in Peru, Illinois had a fifty-game winning streak in a combination of sports. This winning streak started with three wins at the end of the 1940-41 basketball season. It then led into the 1941 baseball team which had a 17-0 record. This continued into an 8-0 football season in 1941 and then a 22-consecutive game winning streak in the 1941-1942 basketball season. Former Academy athlete and now Abbey Prior Sebastian Lewis, S.B., said, "...winning was just our way of life. Almost as though we didn't know how to lose!"

Coach Bron Bacevich did a lot for the athletics at St. Bede. He not only helped lead the Bruins football, basketball, and baseball team into the winning streak, but also affected the students and how they played. As a coach, he was a hard worker. One of his players, Howard Schmidt, said "He'd scout the teams we were going to play." He cared about winning, and he was serious about succeeding in every sport. The other teams claimed that the Bruins knew their plays better than they did. Many of the students also claimed that he not only coached them and helped them, but also "molded us into a team." The players thought they did not have a lot of talent, but they went undefeated. Coach Bacevich was a motivator. He taught the students how to stay with what they are doing and work hard in it to become better. For his retirement in 1974 he wrote a poem called "The Man Who Thinks He can." It goes as follows:

If you think you are beaten, you are:
If you think dare not, you don't!
If you would like to win, but think you can't
It's almost a cinch that you wont
If you think you will lose, you lost:
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will;
It's all in the state of mind!
If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself
Before you can win the prize
Life's battles don't always go
To the fastest or strongest man;
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

During the baseball season, on Friday May 23, 1942, at La Rose Field, an outstanding game was played. The key to this game were the home runs hit by "Pinky" Walsh, Joe Van Hooreweghe, Howard Schmidt, Stan Kozel, and Leno Bernabei. The final score was 26 - 1. The only close game against the Bruins was played against De Pue. Joe Van Hooreweghe and Stan Kozel both hit triples for the Bruins bringing the final score to 4-0. During the football season on September 19, 1942, St. Bede opened its twenty-first season against Streator High. St. Bede played hard in the first half against Streator with a score of 13-0 at the end of the half. The second half brought about more of the same; Streator spent the rest of the game pushing the Bruins back, but they quickly vanished with a long punt or a quick kick from the Bruins. The final score remained the same, 13-0. Streator had 246 rushing yards and 220 yards and did not score. This game was important because it showed they needed to change in order to win. The Bruins became a defensive team and learned to strategize to remain a winning team. The last game

of the streak was in basketball. It was on February 27, 1942 against the Hall Red Devils in Spring Valley. The Red Devils fought fiercely on their home floor. With about a minute left, St. Bede trailed 19-20, but Van Hooreweghe called a timeout, worked up a play, and took the lead. Another basket was added for the Bruins, and the game ended. This was the last game that the Bruins won in the streak. It ended against Streator. Streator scored 18 points in the first half and St. Bede scored 24. In the second half, the Bruins held Streator until the end when Streator scored two points before the gun went off and defeated the Bruins 26 - 21. The streak was broken.

The fifty-game winning streak gave the students a new sense of team spirit and pride. When the athletes created this winning streak, most of the athletes did not know they were running up the record. They played the way they should, and winning just became their way of life. Both Fr. William Kirk, O.S.B., and Prior Sebastian Lewis, O.S.B., agreed that it gave not only the athletes, but also other people involved in the school something to think about at that time. The majority of the athletes in this record were in all three sports; it kept them together and bonded them to create a greater team spirit. This led them to do better in the future, to keep carrying out the winning streak, and gave the school a new feeling of pride. Prior Sebastian Lewis, O.S.B., said, "the students certainly built up school spirit," which gave the people of St. Bede a feeling that they are part of something greater.

The winning streak has benefited St. Bede Academy in several ways. Coach Bacevich influenced the athletes positively; this brought them closer causing more school spirit. It also attracted more talent and people into the school. In these ways, it helped St. Bede grow not only with enrollment, but also with bonds of friendship bringing people closer together, making St. Bede a more enjoyable place. [From *Bureau County Republican*, June 12, 1997; St. Bede Records, Feb. 28, 1942; student historian's interview with Prior Sebastian Lewis, O.S.B., Jan. 9, 2004; student historian's interview with Fr. William Kirk, O.S.B., Jan. 9, 2004.]

The Chicago Blackhawks: 1926-1936 The First Decade

Bryne Hadnott

Brookwood Junior High School, Glenwood

Teacher: Harry Daley

In 1920, Americans in New England were already used to Canada's leading sport: hockey. In 1926, Chicago became one of the National Hockey League (NHL) franchises. They were founded in September 25, 1926. The NHL gave a franchise to Major Frederic McLaughlin. He purchased the Portland Rosebuds and came up with a new name, the Black Hawks in honor of a chief of the Sank Indians. Ever since, the Blackhawks have been one of the most famous hockey teams in the country.

Mayor Fred McLaughlin's wife is credited with designing the Indian head that is featured on every Chicago Blackhawk's jersey. On November 17, 1926, the Chicago Blackhawks showed off their new uniforms when they played their first game at the Chicago Coliseum. It was against the Toronto St. Pats. At the end of the night, the game was 4-1 Blackhawks. When the end of the season came, the Blackhawks record that year was a dismal 19 wins, 22 losses and 3 ties. The team included Dick Irvin, Cecil Dye, George Hay, Charles McVeigh, Bob Trapp, Duke Dutwoski, Jack Riley, Percy Traub, Ken Doraty, George McFarland, Art Townshend, and Hugh Lehman. In 1927, McLaughlin hired his new coach, Barney Stanley.

In the second season, 1927, the Blackhawks won seven games and won the same amount in 1928. For eight games, the Blackhawks never scored a goal and scored only 33 by the end of the season. The Blackhawks' record of 7-34-3 left them unqualified for the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

After another season passed, another coach was fired. Shaughnessy became the new coach. The season opened with a game against Montreal in a 4-4 tie. On December 15, the Chicago Stadium hosted a hockey game against Pittsburgh in a 3-1 Blackhawks' victory after Chicago won four other games. During Boxing Day, the Blackhawks won another game against Montreal Canadians 4-3. In mid-season two events astounded Chicagoans; the Blackhawks were in second place with a record of 11-8-3 and Coach Shaughnessy left the team, leaving direction to Bill Tobin, the new coach. In another win for the BSackhawks, Chicago defeated Boston 3-2 on March 13, 1929. Overall, the Blackhawks did better this season by coming in second with a record of 21-18-5, but failed at the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

In 1930, Dick Irvin replaced Bill Tobin as coach. At a game on New Years' Eve, the Blackhawks began their long journey to the Stanley Cup Playoffs by beating the Philadelphia Quakers, 10-3. In midseason, the Blackhawks were stuck in second place behind the Boston Bruins. Eventually, however, the Blackhawks entered the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Johnny Gottslieg became the team's scoring leader and Charlie Gardiner set a record of 78 goals; the Blackhawks were ready to go to the playoffs. In their first round against Toronto, the score was tied 2-2 and they beat the Maple Leafs, 4-3. In the last game before the playoffs, the Blackhawks played against Montreal and unfortunately lost, 2-0.

During 1931, McLaughlin's poor team ownership skills caused Coach Irvin to be fired when the Blackhawks came in third for the American Division. Bill Tobin was coach again. At the end of the year the Blackhawk record was 18-19-11. Over 18,000 fans jammed Chicago Stadium for the second game of the 1931 finals. This set a new single-game record.

Godfrey Matheson coached in 1932 and had no experience as an NHL coach. His strategy was to play six men and sit the rest on the bench. Due to this, he was fired by Bill Tobin, the new manager. Iverson was replaced by Tommy German. The Blackhawks finished last in the American Division after a 16-20-12 record. On March 13, 1933, the Blackhawks made history. They refused to play when their coach, Tommy German, was ejected by the referee. Boston unfairly was given the win 1-0. More history was made when the first afternoon game was played in Chicago Stadium. Chicago won 4-3 against Detroit. Still, the Blackhawks had not won the Stanley Cup, but that time would come soon.

The climax of 1934 was the Stanley Cup Finals. After difficult training at the University of Illinois, the Blackhawks got to the playoffs. Chicago beat Montreal and won over Detroit three games to one.

On April 10, the final game in Chicago against Detroit ended in a win. After defeating the Detroit Redwings, Chicago had won the Stanley Cup for the first time. However, Chicago had an advantage. Wiif Cude, the Detroit Coach, had been emotional and threw a hockey stick at the wall. By the time it landed, I'd retired," he said. Later on that year, Charles Gardiner won the Vezina Trophy for allowing the fewest goals of any NHL goalie.

Eight weeks after the win of the Stanley Cup, unfortunately, Charles Gardiner died from a brain tumor at age 29 on June 13, 1934. In 1935, Glen Loughlin became the Blackhawks' new coach. Lome Cabot, Howie Morenz, and Marty Burke were traded from the Montreal Canadians. In his first year, Lome Cabot won the Vezina Trophy. However, Howie Morenz scored 8 goals in 48 games. The Blackhawks finished in second place in the American Division. In the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs the Blackhawks lost to Montreal. For the season, the Blackhawks landed in third place in the American Division with a 21-6-8 record.

The Chicago Blackhawks are a franchise rich with history. The Blackhawks began as a failing hockey team although they were one of the NHL's original six franchises. Through seventy-five years, Chicago has pulled together some great athletes in hockey. Their spirit lifted the dreams and voices of many Chicagoans. The Blackhawks' first decade was probably the best one out of the seventy-seven years they have been playing. [From Chicago Blackhawks "Chicago Blackhawks' Timeline," www.geocities.com/Coliseum/3815/history, (Nov. 18, 2003); Chicago Blackhawks "The Birth of the Chicago Blackhawks," www.geocities.com/Coliseum/3815/history (Nov. 18, 2003); Chicago Blackhawks "The McLaughlin Years," www.chicagoblackhawks.com/history; (Nov. 18, 2003); Paul Greenland, *Hockey Chicago Style*; Vartan Kupelian, *Chicago Blackhawks*; Brian McFarlane, *The Blackhawks*; Gerald L. Pfeieffer, *Chicago Blackhawks Sixty Year History 1926-1986*.]

Wrigley Field

Mark Biagi

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Teacher: Harry Daley

One of the most popular baseball parks ever made is Wrigley Field on the north side of Chicago. Every year millions of people around America come to Chicago just to visit Wrigley Field. Wrigley Field is also one of the most famous ballparks along with Fenway Park in Boston.

Wrigley Field was completed on March 14, 1914. It cost \$250,000 dollars. The original seating capacity of the stadium was 14,000. It was estimated that there were over 4,000 yards of soil and over four acres of bluegrass.

At the time it was built, it was not called Wrigley Field; it was called Weegham Park. The original dimensions at Weegham Park were 310 feet to left field, 440 feet to center field, and 356 feet to right field. The home team's name was also not the Chicago Cubs; they were referred to as the Chicago Whales and later as the Chicago Federals. At one point in 1915, the stadium was actually called Whales Park. At this time the team was also part of the Federal League.

The first major league game at Weegham Park was on April 23, 1914, when the Federals defeated Kansas City by a score of 9-1. The first homerun hit at Weegham Park was by the Federals catcher Art Johnson.

At the end of the 1915 season, the Federal League went bankrupt. But soon the Chicago team returned to major league baseball as the Chicago Cubs. The first National League game played at Weegham Park was on April 20, 1920, when the Cubs defeated the Cincinnati Reds 7-6 in 11 innings. From the 1920 season until the 1926 season the park was known as Cubs Park. After the 1922 season many renovations were completed on Cubs Park in the next two decades. In the 1922 season and the 1923 season, the grandstands were moved back 60 feet along and wooden bleachers were installed. These renovations increased the seating capacity from 14,000 to 20,000. In 1926, the park was named Wrigley Field, in dedication to the Cubs owner, William Wrigley Jr.

Renovations included double deck grandstands, lowered playing field, and removal of the left field bleachers. In 1937, further renovations were done to Wrigley Field. The bleachers were added to the outfield and the famous 27 foot by 75 foot by 85 foot hand-operated scoreboard was placed behind the bleachers in centerfield. The scoreboard signals for such notes as the hitter's number, the pitcher's number, the balls and strikes, number of outs, the inning, and a "H" or an "E". ("The "H" stands for hit and the "E" stands for error.) Although this scoreboard has been standing for 66 years, nobody has ever hit a homerun off it. Roberto Clemente of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Bill Nicholson of the Cubs were the closest, but neither of them hit it. After every game at Wrigley Field a blue flag with an "L" on it or a white flag with a "W" on it is hung from the top of the scoreboard. The "W" means the Cubs won and an "L" means that the Cubs did not win. Atop the scoreboard is a huge 15-foot high clock. The clock is 15 feet in diameter and was added in 1941.

The most famous thing about Wrigley Field though is the ivy on the outfield wall. The ivy was bought and planted by Bill Veeck in 1937. The ivy was made up of 350 Japanese bittersweet plants and 200 Boston ivy plants.

One of the other most popular things about Wrigley Field is the bleachers in the outfield. The height of the bleachers is 11.5 feet and the height is 15 feet in the corners. The basket that hangs from the walls was added in 1970.

Wrigley Field has always been an advertisement free ballpark, and it was also the last ballpark to install lights. Wrigley Field was supposed to have their lights installed in the 1942 season, but, because of World War II, the owner of the Cubs donated them to the government. For about the next 40 years Wrigley Field remained basically unchanged until in 1982 a message screen was installed underneath the scoreboard in centerfield, but the year before that the Cubs were bought by the Tribune Company.

The new owners began talking about installing lights after the 1981 season. However, a group of fans revolted against installing lights at Wrigley Field; so it was again postponed. In 1984, the Cubs made the playoffs and it was threatened that, if lights were not installed in future playoff games, that the Cubs games would be played at a different location.

On February 23, 1988, it was finally decided that lights would be installed at Wrigley Field. Ironically the first night game was rained out on August 8, 1988, when the Cubs were playing the Philadelphia Phillies. The first official night game played at Wrigley Field was the following night when the Cubs defeated the New York Mets 6-4.

After the Tribune Company bought the Cubs, many renovations of Wrigley Field followed. In the 1981-1982 season new office space was created behind home plate. In 1984 the Cubs' clubhouse was refurnished, as was the visitors' clubhouse in 1990. In 1989 more seating was added to the mezzanine level, and many other small renovations took place to make room for more seating. The present-day Wrigley Field has a capacity of 38,902.

Wrigley Field has been the home of many memorable moments. The World Series was played in 1918, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, and 1945. The All Star Game was played at Wrigley Field in 1947, 1962, and in 1990. Wrigley Field is also the home of such moments as the 1917 pitching Duel between Jim Vaughn and Fred Toney, who both threw no hitters for 9 innings, Ruth's "called shot" in the 1932 "World Series," "The Homer in the Gloamin'" when Gabby Hartnett hit a homer to lift the Cubs to the pennant, and when Pete Rose tied Ty Cobb for the most career hits at 4,191.

Wrigley Field is a very historic place. It has been said to be like Peter Pan, never growing up and never growing old. [From Wrigley Field, "Big Games at Wrigley Field,"

www.sportingnews.com/baseball/ballparks/wrigley.html (Oct. 7, 2003); Wrigley Field, "Dimensions of Wrigley Field," www.mlbroadtrip.com/english/cities/major/nlc/chicagoparke.htm (Oct. 8, 2003); Wrigley Field, "History of Wrigley Field," www.php.indiana.edu/~jgpyke/history.htm (Oct. 8, 2003); Wrigley Field, "Lights at Wrigley Field," www.members.tripod.com/franksballparks/wrigley.html (Oct. 7, 2003); Wrigley Field, "Memorable Moments of Wrigley Field," www.ballparksofbaseball.com/wrigleyfield (Oct. 10, 2003); Wrigley Field, "Old Wrigley Field," www.123chicago.com/wrigley-field.htm (Oct. 8, 2003); Wrigley Field, "Technical Stuff About Wrigley Field," <http://www.php.indiana.edu/~jgpyke/tech.htm> (Oct. 10, 2003); Wrigley Field, "Timeline of Wrigley Field," http://www.chicago.cubs.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/chc/ballpark/chc_ballpark_history.isp (Oct. 7, 2003).]

Sherman Landers

Adam Tate

Oregon High School, Oregon

Teacher: Sara Werckle

Although most people view Michael Jordan as Illinois' greatest living sports star, his accomplishments are actually rivaled by those of the little known Oregon High School track star, Sherman Landers. Sherman Landers was born around the turn of the twentieth century in Oregon (c. 1898-1900) to Ziba and Harriet (Spickerman) Landers. Sherman and his teammate, Frank Loomis, traveled all over the Midwest in 1916 winning track meets and breaking long-standing track records. Landers attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where he lived his entire adult life. He later married, and he and his wife, Marian, had two daughters, Sally and Lucy. Landers became a very "wealthy financial entrepreneur," However, he is most memorable for his incredible athletic feats.

The first major track meet of Sherman's senior year was the Bradley Polytechnic interscholastic meet in Peoria, Illinois on April 22, 1916. Landers set records in the 50 and 100 yard dash and the pole vault and broad jump. He also received a second in the low hurdles. Loomis added three firsts and the two-man team bested the other 325 athletes by a large margin. The final team score was Oregon 43, Kewaunee, 13.

The next important meet in which Landers and Loomis participated was at the University of Minnesota on May 27, 1916. This was to be one of Landers' greatest track accomplishments. He received firsts in the pole vault, the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash, and the 120-yard high hurdles. It was this meet in which he set a new world record in the pole vault with a height of 12 feet 8 inches. Compared with today's standards, this height may not seem that impressive, but with the equipment of the time, it was a great accomplishment. Some believe that Landers was so good in the pole vault event because he was able to practice in any type of weather by pole vaulting inside the Fouch Feed Shed in Oregon. Loomis also had a career meet at the University of Minnesota. He received a first in the 220-yard low hurdles in a time of 24.25 seconds, which tied the world record.

One of the last meets on the Oregon track schedule took place at the University of Chicago on June 10, 1916. Landers placed first in the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash, and the pole vault. He also received two seconds and one third, which amounted to 26 team points. With Landers performance alone, Oregon would have won the meet handily. However, Loomis added another 11 points by placing a first and two thirds. Although neither Landers or Loomis' times and distances were spectacular because of unfavorable weather, they were still able to top 600 of the best prep athletes from across the nation with the next closest team being Urbana with 15 points. After high school Landers continued to compete in track and field.

Sherman Landers was nominated for the 1916 Olympic team, but due to the onset of World War I, the games were cancelled. However, in 1920, Landers was again nominated for the Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium, where he placed fifth in the triple jump. It may seem surprising that he did not participate in the pole vault, but when asked why he did not participate, his response was only "that it was a long story." There were only a handful of times when Sherman came back to Oregon after his high school career, and one of those times was in the mid 1970s when the school board allowed the Oregon High school track to be renamed Landers-Loomis Field. Another trip to Oregon was in 1983, when Sherman, accompanied by his daughter, Sally, was the parade marshal of the Harvest Time Parade in Oregon.

Landers is a great source of pride for Oregon. His incredible feats, both during and after high school, still amaze many people. Although Sherman Landers may sometimes be overlooked by more recent athletic stars, his athletic talents equal, if not surpass, those of many of today's athletes. [From Bicentennial History of Ogle County; "World Championship Won by Landers and Loomis in Chicago," *Chicago Tribune*, June 11, 1916; *Peoria Journal*, June 11, 1916; *Record of the World's Champion*

Interscholastic Track Team; The Story of Oregon, Illinois; student historian's interview with Art Carlson, Sept. 23, 2003; student historian's interview with Betty Landers, Sept. 22, 2003.

Off to the Races!

Jessica Lovestad
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Although it is no longer in existence today, the racetrack at the Ogle County Fairgrounds was an exciting and integral part of life in Oregon, Illinois. When most people think of the Ogle County Fair, or any fair for that matter, they tend to picture runnel cakes, the Tilt-A-Whirl, the exhibit building, and maybe cows. However, as recently as 12 years ago, along with these typical attractions, spectators lined up to see the thrilling sport of harness racing. The racetrack brought a little fame and fortune to this small town, and its demolition in 1992 was a sad day for many, especially those whose families had been racing since the beginning.

The Ogle County Fair had its humble beginnings in 1853. It was first held on the courthouse lawn with only a couple of classes and \$50 in premiums, and no races. How and when harness racing started is uncertain, but it is likely that it started with horseback races, and about 15 years after the start of the fair the harness racing began. In harness racing, a jockey sits in a sulky, a small streamlined cart, behind horses that are either pacing, which is moving right front and hind legs forward while left legs go back, or trotting, moving the right front and left back leg forward simultaneously. This fast paced and exciting sport quickly caught on at the Ogle County Fair, and a racetrack was built.

The racetrack had a colorful history. As the Ogle County Fair began to grow, people from all over Illinois and the surrounding states brought their horses to race. Winners were awarded premiums, horse blankets, and trophies. These awards drew interesting people, including, according to legend, Jesse James and his gang in the 1870s. When the townspeople heard that these dangerous criminals were coming to their fair, they were prepared to be robbed and showed up with all sorts of artillery. As it turned out, Jesse James and his gang were merely interested in racing their horses against the Oregon competition. They then continued on to Northfield, Minnesota, to actually rob a bank. It was there, however, that prepared citizens fought back and killed a few out of Jesse's gang, forcing the rest to flee.

The Oregon racetrack tried a few innovations as well, without much success. In 1895 gambling was allowed, but looked down upon and eventually prohibited once again. This did not deter race-goers from enjoying the main events. The racetrack owners tried another new idea in the 1930s, building possibly the first night-lighted track in the country. This creative idea failed to be lucrative however, and shareholders had to buy out the fairgrounds. They decided to continue the races, but this time only in the day.

These day races still helped draw many interesting characters and horses to the area. One such person was Judge James Cartwright, who founded Spring Vale Stock Farm just north of the fairgrounds. His farm was committed solely to raising trotting horses, and he had much to show for it. It was from this farm that the famous pacing mare Citation came. During this horse's prime, she tied the world record for her sex and gait: 2:01 3/4 at a race at Columbus, Ohio in 1908. This added to the pride and prestige of Oregon harness racing.

In addition to Judge Cartwright's contributions to horse racing, the Burright family imparted much knowledge and esteem to Oregon's harness racing legacy. The most famous in this family was Neva Burright, affectionately called "Grandma" Burright. This woman was a fierce harness racer who won countless races against men and women alike, and continued racing into her 70s. She paved the way for women horse racers, was the first person elected into the Illinois Harness Horse Hall of Fame (IHHA Hall of Fame), and intimidated other racers so much that one of the best drivers ever, Seth Palin, is quoted as saying "I'm not going to have an old lady make a fool out of me," and actually scratched a race to avoid competing against her. Her family was also big in harness racing. Her daughter and son-in-law are also IHHA Hall of Fame inductees and spent much of their lives harness racing.

One can only imagine, with so much invested in this racetrack and the fairgrounds it occupied, the surprise the community felt when it was announced in 1992 that there would no longer be a fair in Ogle County. Many of the fair stockholders were reaching retirement age and wished to see a return on their investment, and therefore decided to put the property up for sale. In 1992 the grounds were sold to the Oregon Park District, developer Grant Landis, and Charles Mongan, Jr. The racetrack and grandstands were torn down and the property was converted into a park and a subdivision named Fairground Estates. With that, an era in Oregon had come to an end.

The racetrack on the Ogle County Fairgrounds in Oregon, Illinois had a vibrant and interesting past. The racers and spectators that it drew enhanced the culture in Oregon. Many citizens' lives were changed by the involvement that they had in the thrilling sport of harness racing. When the track was closed in 1992, it was the end of something special and unique. However, it opened Oregon up to new settlement and new people, perhaps one with a plan for something even bigger and better. Only time will tell. [From Georgian Downs Limited, "About Harness Racing," www.georgiandowns.com (Sept. 24, 2003); Charles Mongan, ed., *The Story of Oregon, Illinois*; *Chicago Sun Times*, July 18, 1966; *Ogle County News*, Jan. 16, July 22, 1992; Richard K. Jones, "Racin' on the River," *Hoofbeats*, (Aug. 1991); *Oregon Republican Reporter*, (Oct. 11, 1986); Tom, Shinn, "Jack and Joyce Hankin: A Portrait of the All-American Harness Racing Family," *Hoofbeats*, (Nov. 1988).]

The Black Sox Scandal

Jake Meyer

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How much do you really know about the greatest fix in baseball history? Early baseball was much different than it is today. The game itself has changed significantly, but the effects of gambling are still felt today.

Baseball's first professional baseball team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings. They played their first game in 1869. The first World Series game was played in 1903, and the battle of the best teams from both leagues quickly became of great interest to the American people. The attendance at professional baseball games kept rising, especially after World War I. The 1919 season saw many attendance records broken and the World Series was greatly anticipated. It became the premier sporting event.

At the time, baseball was tied to gambling. The scandal could not have come at a worse time. Post-war depression was starting. The public was disillusioned about the economy and racial tensions were growing. Americans were in need of their good old pastime, baseball. There were three gamblers that stand out above the rest in the Black Sox Scandal. They are William Thomas (Sleepy Bill), and Bill Burns, and Billy Maharg. They approached two White Sox players, pitcher Ed Cicotte and first baseman Arnold Gandil.

The gamblers knew it would take more than just two players to fix the series. A lot of money was at stake. They soon added six more to the plot: pitcher Lefty Williams, centerfielder Happy Flesch, shortstop Swede Risberg, third baseman Buck Weaver, utility man Fred McMullin, and left fielder Joe Jackson. Gamblers put up half of a million on the Reds to take the series. Yet they only paid the players \$100,000 to split among themselves.

Many people thought that the Chicago White Sox were the best baseball team of all time. The team contained many of the same players it had when they won the 1917 World Series; yet the White Sox salaries were among the lowest in the sport, just \$85,000 for the entire team. The White Sox main players were Eddie Cicotte, Lefty Williams, Buck Weaver, Happy Flesch, and the man who made it all work -- Joe Jackson. Once Washington pitcher, Walter Johnson said, "I consider Joe Jackson the greatest natural ballplayer I've ever seen."

On September 24, 1919, the White Sox clinched the pennant. The White Sox were to play the Cincinnati Reds in the World Series who were managed by Pat Moran. The Reds were good, but not a sensational team. The Sox were a 3-1 favorite to win the series and the American League had won 8 of the last 9 World Series. A few days before the series, huge amounts of money came from bettors who favored Cincinnati.

Gandil approached Joe Jackson the most valuable player to the Sox, and said, "Seven of us have gotten together to frame up the World Series. You'll get \$10,000 if you help us out." Jackson said, "No I want no part of that."

The first game of the series was played at Cincinnati's Redland Field on October 1, 1919 before 30,511 fans. Christy Mathewson, a great major league pitcher, kept score and circled questionable plays. Ed Cicotte beamed the first batter of the game, which was the sign that the fix was on. The White Sox lost 9 to 1 and Joe Jackson went hitless. The Sox also lost game two with a score of 4 to 2 and Lefty Williams on the mound. In game three, Dickie Kerr threw a three-hit shutout and led the Sox to a 3-0 win, but the Sox lost the next game. October 5, 1919, game 5 got rained out. The Reds later won game five, 5-0. The Sox won game six, 5 to 4. In game seven the Sox won, 4 to 1. Game 8, the Reds won 10 to 1; the final out was made by Joe Jackson grounding out to second base. In the series Jackson batted .375; .71 points higher than in his last World Series, when he had 12 hits for a new record for a World Series, and hit the only homerun in the entire World Series. He also did not make an error.

The night after the last game in 1919, Lefty Williams gave Jackson a dirty envelope with \$5,000 in it. Jackson refused to take it, saying he did not want the money. Williams threw the money on the ground and left. Joe Jackson went to see Mr. Comiskey with the money in his pocket the next day. Jackson knocked on owner Charles Comiskey's door and Harry Grabiner the quasi-general manager and secretary to Comiskey came to the door. Jackson showed Grabiner the \$5,000, telling him how he had got it. Grabiner told him to go home and he'd write if anything further happened.

Now that the series was over, charges of a fix were now out in the open and the controversy exploded. Although Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the first commissioner of baseball, suspended each of the players, he promised them reinstatement if they were found not guilty. However, he still banned them all for life even though they were cleared of all criminal charges. He later went on to say that, "regardless of the verdict of the juries," he said, "no player that throws a ball game....will ever play professional baseball." Seven of the eight Black Sox confessed to throwing the series, but one player seemed to be relatively innocent and that was Shoeless Joe Jackson. Shoeless Joe had a lifetime batting average of .354, third all time, and was one of the best hitters to ever play the game of baseball. Jackson is the only player to hit over .400 and not win a batting title. Joe Jackson had not only told Comiskey of the fix but also asked to be benched during the series. Therefore he was not a part of the scandal.

The Black Sox Scandal was one of the biggest and darkest events in baseball history. As Ed R. Hughes of the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "Baseball means something to this country and the game itself is bigger than the crooks who have tried to ruin it." It made the American people temporarily lose faith in the game they loved.

There is still one big question left by the scandal; "Should Shoeless Joe be admitted to the Hall of Fame?" This question has been the subject of much controversy. Shoeless Joe was not angry and accordingly he left us with these words: "I am going to meet the greatest umpire of all - and He knows I'm innocent." [From Eliot Asinof (1963), *Eight Men Out*; "Eight Men Out," Metro Goldwyn Mayer, 1988; Robert C. Cottrell, *Blackball, the Balck Sox and the Babe*; Harvey Frommer, *Shoeless Joe and Ragtime Bseball*; Montgomery college, Maryland, "1919 Black Sox Scandal," www.mc.cc.md.us/Departments/hpolscr/bloacksox. (Oct. 22, 2003).]

Who Won the 1975 U.S. Open?

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Who won the 1975 U.S. Open? This article will tell about who won the U.S. Open in 1975 and will tell about six Illinois players who played in it. Five of the Illinois players were from the Chicago area, and one was from Belleville. This article will also tell some information about the community near Medinah, Illinois, where the event was held. This U.S. Open was known as the match that could not be won, because it went into a fourth day playoff.

In 1975, the U.S. Open was held in Medinah, Illinois. Bob Augustine, Drue Johnson, Dean Lind, Lance Ten Broeck, and Bob Zender were the five Chicago area golfers to qualify for the U.S. Open held in June, 1975. Jay Haas was the player from Belleville. The first round scores of those players were Ten Broeck, 71; Zender, 72; Haas, 74; Johnson, 79; Augustine, 81; and Lind, 82. These six golfers were some of the best golfers in Illinois. In the end, Haas and Ten Broeck were the only two Illinois golfers left in the 1975 U.S. Open.

The two day scores after the second round were Haas, 143; Ten Broeck, 145; Johnson, 152; Zender, 154; Augustine, 157; and Lind, 159. Of these six Illinois players, only Haas and Broeck made the cut to go to the third round. The final round scores for them were Haas, 215 and Broeck, 224. The end of 1975 U.S. Open came when Lou Graham won in a playoff round.

Lance Ten Broeck started his career in the PGA Tour as an amateur. He played during the years from 1975 to 1992. Dean Lind was a professional player on the PGA Tour, but he was cut after the second round of the 1975 U.S. Open with a two-day score of 159. Jay Haas is still playing professional golf, but he was an amateur in 1975. He played from 1974 to 2002 on the PGA tour. He was only 21 years of age when he went to the 1975 U.S. Open.

Near Medinah in the 1920s, there was a group of local Shriners who wanted a country retreat. They bought land from the Lawrence and Rosenwinkel families to build the Medinah Country Club. This country club has 54 holes on three golf courses. The course that they played the U.S. Open on in 1975 was Medinah Country Club Number Three. The Number Three golf course was originally designed for the women of the Medinah Country Club.

The architect who designed this course was Tom Bendelow. Schmidt Brothers was the construction crew. The man who painted the murals and the rotunda was Gustav A. Brand, a German artist. The clubhouse was designed using many styles from Oriental, Byzantine, Louis XIV, and Italian architecture. During the Great Depression, the Medinah Country Club members suffered great financial hardships. As a result, the club lost many members during that time.

The last time that the U.S. Open was held in Medinah was in 1990. One other time that the U.S. Open was held there was in 1949. The Number Three course is still open today. [From Medinah Country Club, "Club History," http://medinahcc.org/frames/middle/club_history/club_history.html (Nov. 12, 2003); U.S. golf Association, Golfstats: U.S. Open Jay Hass in the U.S. Open, www.golfstats.usopen.com/cgi.pan?usopen (Oct. 27, 2003); *Chicago Tribune*, June 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23, 1975.]

Spirit of Harness Racing: The Hambletonian

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The largest trotting event in America is the Hambletonian Horse Race. The Hambletonian came to DuQuoin Illinois in 1957, setting many records and producing many legends. Even though horse racing has been popular since the 1800s, the Hambletonian set the stage for three year-old trotters. Beginning in 1926, the race was originally held at the New York State Fair in Syracuse, New York.

In 1929, after remaining in Syracuse for three years, the race was moved to Goshen, New York. In 1957, it moved to Illinois. Most thought this last move would be temporary, with a plan to return to Goshen in a few years. However, the Hambletonian remained in Illinois for almost twenty-four years.

While in Illinois, the Hambletonian was held at the DuQuoin State Fair grounds owned by W. R. Hayes, a Coca-Cola bottler. When Hayes died, his sons inherited the race grounds, and some months later created a Hambletonian song that was sung at the start of every race, thus helping to create a State Fair atmosphere.

The Hambletonian became one of the most prestigious race in the United States. Since southern Illinois experienced thermometer reading of sometimes one hundred degrees or more, DuQuoin became the perfect setting for this race. The hot temperatures and DuQuoin's mile-long clay track, made a winning combination for setting trotting speed records. World records were set and reset more than a dozen times, many in the same afternoon. As a result of the superior racing conditions, horses often tied for titles and prizes. On four occasions, it took four heats (all afternoon) to determine who would leave with the silver trophy: Blaze Hanover won in 1960, Egyptian Candor in 1965 and Bonefish and Steve Lobell in 1975-76. By 1976, the rules were changed. The maximum number of heats in the stake was limited to three.

Several entertaining stories stemmed from the Hambletonian. In 1962, Sanders Russell raced on his horse with his ankle in a cast and was able to come out a winner. In 1970, John Simpson Sr. and his son both were victorious on the same horse. In 1978, Speedy Somali and his jockey trotted the first one minute and fifty-five second mile race, setting a world record. Shockingly, they lost their second race by a nose, even though Speedy finished with the same time. Two years later in 1980, Bill Haughton won on Burgomeister, a horse owned by his son Peter, who tragically died earlier that year. Haughton was the final winner at the Hambletonian Race in Du Quoin Illinois.

In 1981, the Hambletonian moved to the Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey where it remains today. The Meadowlands and the Hambletonian Society have a contract leading to 2005. Perhaps some day the Hambletonian will move back to Illinois, but no matter what the future holds, its stories will remain part of our country's horse racing history. For almost three quarters of a century, surviving the evolutions of harness races through the years, the Hambletonian has set the stage for amazing tales of jockeys and their horses. To win the Hambletonian Race has been and will always be the ultimate prize in its field. [From The Hambletonian Society, "The Hambletonian 1926-Present,"

www.hambletonian.org/history/history.html (Oct. 1, 2003); "Hambletonian,"

www.4reference.net/encyclopedias/wikipedia/Hambletonian.html (Oct. 5, 2003).]

“Play Ball” – The *Women’s* Way

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They showed bravery, endurance, and heart; they represented the women of America. Showing, immense courage, on and off the field, these brave women acted as warriors, fighting a battle every game they played. They were not only role models, but the Rockford Peaches baseball team represented the hopes and dreams that women could attain success.

When Philip Wrigley created the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) in 1943, many doubted the league would even last a year. But these women silenced doubters by playing an amazing eleven years of hardball.

In 1943, just two years before WWII ended, most men in America had already been shipped out and were defending their country. But it became apparent to Phillip Wrigley his once fan-filled stadium became nothing but a bunch of lonely seats beckoning for company. With his profits dwindling, Wrigley knew he needed to do something to attract fans to the stadium. Since the war started, women were replacing the men in the workspace. Why not replace them on the field as well? With that thought, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was born. Tryouts were held, and four of the greatest teams to ever play were formed: the Racine Belles, Kenosha Comets, South Bend Blue Sox, and, of course, the remarkable Rockford Peaches. Nevertheless, obtaining this great privilege of being some of the first women to play professional baseball came with uncomfortable consequences. The women were forced to wear "short-skirted wool dresses-in pastel colors-over heavy, cotton boxer shorts. The shorts, knee-high socks, and a hat would compliment the dresses." It was very important to owner Wrigley that players always appear feminine on and off the field. The players even had to attend charm schools to prefect their manners.

The Rockford Peaches revolutionized the AAGPBL forever. They won more league championships than any other team in the history of the league; the first was in 1945, and the other three were won consecutively in 1948, 1949, and 1950. But winning did not come easily. It meant an immense amount of hard work and dedication. In the 1943 season all teams were closing in on first place, except the Peaches. They were a disastrous sixteen games away, and very much out of the running. It was not until 1944 that the Peaches really became competitive when they changed managers. Even though they finished fourth, they improved markedly, and received a great deal of hope and inspiration from their fans. In fact, at the Peaches last home game, 3,133 brave fans filled the Rockford stadium, or as sports writers referred to it as: "The Peach Orchard". The fans loyalty never wavered, for they witnessed Carolyn Morris, the Peaches pitcher, pitch a nine-inning, no hitter against the Blue Sox that night.

By 1944 the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League had expanded to ten teams. As more teams were formed, games became more intense. But even though the league was expanding, the Peaches were going nowhere. After they won the 1950 league championship, all of the work they put into becoming the powerhouses they were, was soon lost. They were once again the team that worked so hard but was "not to be". Many of their great players, after their last championship was won, had decided to move on to the college life, including the greatest player to ever play for the Peaches or for that fact, in AAGPBL: Dorothy (Dottie) Kamenshek. Dottie was, in the words of the *Rockford Star* on August 20, 1950, "a girl baseball star who has been called one of the greatest defensive first basemen-man or woman-of all time, who has been honored by sports writers all over the nation, and whose diamond service have been sought by professional baseball..." Dottie Kamenshek was a small town girl, but a big time player who shone upon the entire league, as the greatest first basemen of all time. In fact, Wally Pip, first basemen for the New York Yankees, called her, "the fanciest fielding first basemen I've ever seen- man or women." She was the first woman asked to play professional baseball

with men, but declined the history making offer. Dottie won hitting titles in 1946 and 1947, and was selected for seven All-star teams in her ten-year career for the Peaches.

Since 1954, there has yet to be another professional baseball team for women. Ever since the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was created, a new door was opened for women. The league not only set guidelines for women's baseball and softball players around the world, but proved that even the most impossible dreams can be reached if one is willing. [From Barbara Gregorich, *Women at Play*; Susan E. Johnson, *When Women Played Hardball*; Margot Fortunato Galt, *Up to the Plate: the All American Girls Professional Baseball League*; P.A.V. Studios, (1999) "all All-American Girls Professional Baseball League 1943-1945," www.aaglpbl.org/roster/rost_k1#kamenshek (Jan. 6, 2004).]